officers has been forwarded to all High Courts and State Governments to follow this format, *inter-alia*, has a column for statistical data on performance of judges including disposal of cases in the reported year.

Out of Court settling of pending litigations against Government

2009. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry would constitute a Review Committee to explore the possibility of settling out-of-court all pending litigations against Government in order to reduce the workload of the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to advise the State Governments to constitute such Committees to reduce workload in the High Courts by settling out-of-court all possible cases pending against the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KIRSHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir. The Government have been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in Courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps have been taken by the Courts, *viz.*, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc. The Government have also encouraged and set up alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases and to reduce the workload of regular Courts. Fast Track Courts for the disposal of long pending cases, particularly sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails have been set up.

(b) Does not arise.

In-camera trial of rape victims

2010. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring a comprehensive legislation for taking depositions of rape victims in-camera by women Judges;

(b) if so, the time-frame thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) Section 327(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides that inquiry into and trial of rape or an offence under sections 376A, 376B, 376C or Section 376D of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 should be conducted in camera subject to the proviso thereto.

The Law Commission of India in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has, *inter alia*, recommended that section 327(2) of the Cr.P.C. be amended to provide that in camera trial shall be condcuted as far as practicable by a woman Judge or a Magistrate.

The Report of the Law Commission has been referred to State Governments for their comments as Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is not feasible to indicate a specific timeframe for a decision on this recommendations as the Government has to take a view on the recommendations of the Law Commission in the 154th Report in its entirety after taking into account views of the State Governments.

Fast Track Courts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

2011. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Fast Track courts functioning in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) the details of such courts though established but not functional due to non-availability of staff and infrastructure;

(c) the details where only Presiding Officers (Judges) have been appointed; and

(d) the steps contemplated to make such courts functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) As per available information, 38 Fast Track Courts are functioning in Madhya Pradesh and 23 Fast Track Courts are functioning in the State of Chhattisgarh.